

Count NILS GYLDENSTOLPE forwarded the following description of a new Fruit-Pigeon :—

Treron calva vylderi, subsp. nov.¹

A very pale form. Underparts in the adult male greyish with a very slight olive tinge; nuchal collar rather well defined and of a more pure grey than the back; upper tail-coverts grey, the feathers slightly olive-grey at the tips; central rectrices greyish, paler and more greyish-white terminally; outermost pair of tail-feathers dark grey basally, then brownish-black and tipped with greyish-white; remaining rectrices grey with the brownish-black colour less intense and the tips darker; rectrices from below blackish brown, tipped with greyish-white. Head and neck rather bright "oil-yellow" (*Ridgway*), slightly less bright on the crown and sides of face; crop-region yellowish; underparts greyish, the feathers tipped with yellowish. Patch near bend of wing vinaceous drab; scapulars slightly more olive-grey than the back; yellow markings on wings very pale yellow.

A female from the same locality resembles the male, but the upper parts are less pure grey, more tinged with olive; nuchal collar less well marked and the whole coloration duller.

Bare portion of bill slightly shorter than the rhamphotheca, or equal to it.

Type. Adult male, collected at Quevep, Great Namaqualand, 23rd August, 1873, by Mr. G. de Vylder.

Dimensions of type. Wing 164 mm.; tail 100 mm.; rhamphotheca, 10·5 mm.; bare portion of bill 10 mm. The female shows the following measurements: Wing 166 mm.; tail 106 mm.; rhamphotheca 10·5 mm.; bare portion of bill 10·5 mm.

Remarks. This is an easily distinguished form differing from its nearest geographical ally, *Treron calva ansorgei* Hartert and Goodson, from Mossamedes, by its much paler coloration and by having the bare portion of the bill either shorter than or equal to the rhamphotheca, not longer as in

T. c. ansorgei and *T. c. calva*. Besides the specimens mentioned above, another unsexed bird from ex-German S.W. Africa in the Berlin Museum has been examined.

Colonel MEINERTZHAGEN exhibited some Song-Thrushes from the Island of Mull and made the following remarks :—

Three Thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) recently obtained in Mull show characters intermediate between *T. p. clarkei* and *T. p. hebridensis*. The Island of Mull being what may be termed intermediate territory between the mainland of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides, it is not surprising that an intermediate form of the Song-Thrush occurs. Great interest also lies in the fact that the rainfall of Mull is also slightly less than that in the Outer Hebrides, but greater than that which falls on the eastern mainland of Scotland. This looks as though rainfall affects the density of pigment among the Song-Thrushes, but against this Thrushes from Ireland, where the rainfall is greater than in Scotland, do not show to the same extent a tendency to *T. p. hebridensis*.

I may add that in both the Outer Hebrides and in Mull the Thrush is perforce a heather- and ground-frequenting bird, whilst in Great Britain and Ireland they seldom occur far from bushes or undergrowth.

Whether this habit or degree of rainfall is the influence which stimulates colour-pigment, it seems that among *Turdus philomelos* variation is dominated by environment and not by mutation, though in other closely allied species variation appears to follow the principles of mutation.

A series of Song-Thrushes with notes on their habits from the south-west corner of Ireland would be most interesting and might throw light on the subject, as in that locality falls the greatest amount of rain in the British Islands, outside mountain areas.

The Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN exhibited, on behalf of Lt.-Colonel W. A. Payn, the skins of two Lesser Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*) shot near Biskra in the Algerian Sahara in 1923 on their breeding-ground. Both birds were short-winged, the male especially so (wing ♂ 106·7 mm.; ♀ 113 mm.), in this respect approaching